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Kowalyk

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[54] DENTAL LASER APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TREATING TOOTH DECAY

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606/13; 606/16[58] Field of Search 433/215, 216, 29;
606/2, 3, 10, 15, 16

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[57] ABSTRACT

A dental laser apparatus and method is disclosed for removing tooth decay. A substance which selectively attaches to tooth decay is applied to the tooth. This substance has a predetermined absorption band. A laser having an output wavelength which corresponds to the absorption band is supplied and is absorbed primarily by the decayed portions of the tooth. The use of Acid Red 52 dye as the substance and a frequency doubled Nd:YAG laser as the source is disclosed as one embodiment.

17 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

